



# The Washington Connection

Congresswoman Candice Miller

THE WEEK AHEAD

SEPTEMBER 10 - 16, 2006

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This week in Washington, Congresswoman Miller will take up two critical pieces of legislation.

The first bill that will be considered is this Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2006. H.R. 2965 requires Federal Prison Industries to compete for its contracts with private sector firms. This a change from



*Rep. Miller met this week with a delegation from Kenya. That nation is participating in the House Democracy Assistance (HDAC) program, which is designed to give nascent democracies a first-hand glimpse at our own democracy in action.*

the current situation, in which prisons can undercut private industry because of the low wages of prisoners. The bill also provides for new work-based programs for inmates, and other rehabilitative opportunities to better prepare for a successful return to society. These include alternative in-

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## REP. MILLER HAILS HOUSE BAN ON CANADIAN TRASH

*Delivers speech on House floor in show of support*

Representative Miller threw her full support behind a bill last week to finally put an end to the damaging onslaught of Canadian trash, delivering an impassioned speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in favor of the legislation. **The bill unanimously passed in the House.**

Here is the full text of her re-

marks:

"Mr. Speaker, the nation of Canada is a great friend to America in many ways. But it is not very friendly to unapologetically dump your garbage on your neighbor's lawn, and that is what Canada has been doing to Michigan for decades.

"Every day hundreds of trucks

loaded with Canadian garbage come across the Blue Water Bridge, which is in my district, and dump Canada's garbage in Michigan's landfills.

"For decades the Michigan legislature has bipartisanly tried to pass laws that would put an end to this ridiculous situation. But we have continually been told that

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# House Bans Canadian Trash (Continued...)

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only the U.S. Congress has the authority to stop this by passing federal legislation in both the House and the Senate.

"Mr. Speaker, I have, along with my colleagues in the House, pushed and prodded and persuaded House leadership to allow us to vote on this legislation which will allow the state legislatures the right to block foreign trash while the EPA promulgates rules over a two year period to make that ban permanent."

"If the House passes this bill today, and I sincerely hope that we do, the Members of the House will have fulfilled our duty."

"Unfortunately, according to Michigan's two U.S. Senators, companion legislation that has been languishing in the Senate has little, if any chance of going forward."

"You see Mr. Speaker, Michigan's two Senators secretly negotiated a per-

sonal agreement with the Province of Ontario that effectively blocks our ability to stop Canadian trash."

"Michigan's two Senators agreed to not push any legislation in the Senate, to not push for any inspection fees of these trucks, agreed to do nothing on this issue for the next 4 years. And in return, the Canadians have agreed to phase out about 1/3 of the garbage they dump in Michigan over the next 4 years. What about the other 2/3rds? No problem, according to our Senators. They think it is OK to just sit back and let the trucks keep coming."

"It is no wonder the Canadians have been celebrating this agreement; they cannot believe their good luck. Just when the U.S. Congress is finally set to pass legislation that will stop the flow of Canadian trash, the two Senators from Michigan save Canada from taking responsibility for its own garbage!"

"I'm not going to question the motives of my two Senators; obviously they too want to stop Canadian trash. But

the motivation of the Canadians is clear. When asked by the Canadian media why they agreed to the deal, the Environmental Ministry spokesperson explained, 'Our garbage trucks could have been turned back from the border as early as January 2007. We needed to find a solution to avert that.' The Canadians knew very well that we were going to vote on this issue today. They needed a solution, and they found it."

"I had one reporter tell me 'In fairness to the Senators, they thought their agreement was for all of the trash, they didn't realize it was only for 1/3.' Well perhaps if they would have included anyone else in on their secret negotiations with the Canadians, someone could have pointed out this rather important fact to them."

"Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill, and to work together to encourage action in the Senate."

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## Macomb Daily: Romeo Plank Receives Relief

### Road to be widened with \$8 million in funds

**By Chad Selweski, Macomb Daily Staff Writer**

Officials announced Thursday that the expansion of a road prone to traffic backups will begin in the spring, with the project taking a twist to avoid wiping out a landmark tavern.

The project is able to go forward due to \$8 million in federal funds secured by U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, who presented a ceremonial check to the Macomb County Road Com-

mission at a roadside press conference in Macomb Township on Thursday morning.

Construction bids will be received this winter to expand Romeo Plank, from two lanes to five, from M-59 to a half mile north of 21 Mile Road. The second phase, north to 23 Mile, will not take place until 2008 or 2009.

"As you stand here now you can see it's desperately needed,"

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**Rep. Miller presents ceremonial check to local officials**

# Rep. Miller Statement on the Fifth Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks

**C**ongresswoman Miller made the following statement in remembrance of the events of September 11 five years later:

"Five years ago we saw evil come to America's shores. On September 11, 2001 cowardly terrorists murdered some 3,000 of our fellow Americans. Innocent civilians simply going about their daily lives.

"We remember the anguish of the families of the departed. We remember the heroism of the firefighters and police officers who went into burning buildings to save the lives of people they did not know.

"On that day America's heart was broken, but out of our sor-



ow came a unity of resolve. A resolve that the forces of freedom will never be bowed by the forces of evil.

"Today we solemnly remember those we lost on that horrible day. We honor those in uniform who have served so bravely in the Global War on Terror, particularly those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom. We honor our first responders who selflessly give of themselves to protect our communities. And we renew our resolve to defend that freedom so that the American people can live in peace and security.

God bless America."

## Romeo Plank Widening (Continued...)

**(Continued from page 2)**

said county highway engineer Bob Hoepfner as a steady stream of traffic drove by.

The project will spare Goldie's Saloon, which has sat at the roadside just north of M-59 since 1874. The five lanes will veer slightly west at the site of the tavern, which was originally a dry-goods store and a post office.

"It's a landmark," said Matt Giroux, who co-owns the establishment with his brother, Mike. "It's such a neighborhood bar. We just wanted it to stay."

Hoepfner said the tavern was spared out of respect for Macomb Township history and to keep project costs down. While construction of the two phases carries a \$9 million price tag, a major additional expense is purchasing the land right-of-way to widen the road.

Two major purchases yet to be com-

pleted include businesses at the northwest and southeast corners of Romeo Plank and 22 Mile Road.

Miller, a Harrison Township Republican, said she attached the \$8 million onto the transportation bill adopted by Congress last year.

"This is an 'earmark' but I don't make any excuses for that. It's very needed. And it's not as if we don't pay enough in federal taxes," Miller said. "There was some concern the road commission wouldn't be able to do this project because they didn't have the money."

With the help of federal and state funding, the road commission now hopes to proceed with three major road projects next year that will cause temporary headaches for motorists in Macomb and Clinton townships.

Romeo Plank/Cass Avenue will be widened from two to five lanes start-

ing in the spring, from Heyenreich road to a half mile north of 19 Mile Road.

The 23 Mile Road widening to five lanes will enter the next phase in the spring, with expansion planned from Hayes Road to just east of Romeo Plank. Bids will be taken on that project starting today.

This fall, the 23 Mile bridge over the Clinton River will be replaced and new sewers will be installed along the roadway, which is now two lanes.

A fourth major project, widening Metropolitan Parkway from four to six lanes from Garfield Road to Groesbeck Highway, has been delayed until 2008. A 2007 start was scheduled but the county failed to land state funding for the effort.

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## This Week in Washington (Continued...)

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mate work opportunities for non-profit and public service organizations. These programs reduce recidivism better than traditional programs.

The other major bill to be taken up next will be to reform the earmarking process in the House of Representatives. The bill is intended to make the way in

which members of Congress secure funding for projects in their districts more transparent.

With the fifth anniversary of 9/11 coming up, the House also plans to vote on a resolution commemorating the lives of the fallen, and to renew our commitment to fighting terrorism.

Also going on this week, Congresswoman Miller will

be meeting with several constituents from various groups, and marching in the Richmond Good Old Days parade in the 10th District.

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